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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Aguinaldo Battled U.S. but Loves Us

By Drew Pearson

IF PRESIDENT Eisenhower wants a contrast to the howling, hostile mobs of Japan, he should take an hour to drive outside Manila and pay a call on the man who started the Spanish-American War—frail, friendly Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, now 91 years old.



Pearson

I had a fascinating visit with the venerable patriarch when in the Philippines last winter. It was a visit I will never forget.

Aguinaldo lives in a mahogany-floored, native-type house about 10 miles outside Manila—built on stilts to permit the air to circulate underneath and discourage snakes from taking up residence under the foundations. The old gentleman walks with the help of a nurse, but says optimistically he looks forward to the 4th of July when every year he has paraded through Manila with the American flag over his shoulder.

Most people have forgotten that Aguinaldo once battled the United States for two full years after the end of the Spanish-American War and for a time fought off the entire American army.

"I was 27 years old when I proclaimed independence

from Spain on Aug. 31, 1898," Gen. Aguinaldo told me. "It was on that balcony I was made revolutionary leader of Cavite and six provinces joined us."

"What started the revolution?" I asked.

"I had become a Mason," explained Aguinaldo. "As free Masons we were against the Catholic Church. Actually the revolt was more against the church than against the Spanish government. We fought from 1896 to 1898 when Admiral Dewey arrived. He asked us to wait until he could and then he said we would both occupy Manila jointly."

"However, he occupied it without us, so we fought the Americans two more years."

We sat around a huge mahogany table—the biggest I have ever seen cut from one log. On the ceiling above was carved in mahogany a relief map of the 7000 islands of the Philippines; and on the walls were autographed photographs of past governors—William Howard Taft, later President; Henry L. Stimson, later Secretary of State; Frank Murphy, later Attorney General and Supreme Court justice—a panorama of American history in its most vigorous years.

"Which was the best Governor-General of the Philippines?" I asked.

"Gen. Leonard Wood," replied Aguinaldo, referring to the man who tried to get the

Republican presidential nomination in 1920 but lost to Harding. Later Harding appointed Wood to the Philippines.

"How are relations between the United States and the Philippines now?"

"Fine. We consider ourselves your best friends," said the man who spent two years fighting against the United States, "and we hope to continue so."

Capital Chaff

Nelson Rockefeller pretty well kissed off his chances for the GOP nomination with that mush-in-mouth interview on "Meet The Press" last Sunday.

Some Democrats are still hopeful about the man who once served under FDR and Truman. A big sign has appeared over the Surfcomber Hotel in Miami Beach reading: "First Headquarters Citizens' Committee, Grass-Roots Movement for Nomination of Governor Nelson Rockefeller as Democratic Party Candidate for President of the United States." Inside the hotel a lot of petitions were being signed by people hoping to draft Rocky as a Democrat.

Striking contrast between Nixon and Rockefeller; Dr. Philip Jessup, the Columbia University professor who when with the State Department was pilloried by McCarthy with the side-line approval of Nixon, was recently made an "associate" of the Rockefeller Foundation. The Louisiana delegation to the Democratic

convention will be run by Republicans. It will be dominated by ex-Gov. Robert Kennon who spoke on a nationwide hook-up promoting Eisenhower as a segregationist in 1952 while northern audiences were hearing Governor McKeldin of Maryland call Eisenhower an integrationist. Indications are that if Jack Kennedy is nominated, Governor Faubus of Arkansas would carry six Southern states on a third-party ticket.

West Virginia Visitor

Interesting recent press squib reported that Walter C. Hollaway of Texas had been in West Virginia checking reports of Kennedy vote-buying, had come away satisfied that all was clean. The item implied that Johnson's Texas oil friends had checked up on Kennedy, could find nothing.

Behind this, however, is the interesting fact that Hollaway is a former FBI man who has been close to Senator Kennedy's brother Bob. In the fall of 1958 Hollaway flew to Hyannis, Mass., to visit the Kennedy family, and when Bob Kennedy spoke in Houston, Hollaway and his partner came to Houston to give a party for him. Any investigation made of the West Virginia vote-buying would be a very friendly one from the point of view of the Kennedy family.

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